**CAMPER**

**THE CANADIAN MULTICENTRE CSF PRESSURE MONITORING AND BIOMARKER STUDY**

**PROJECT PURPOSE**

The CAMPER study is a multi-centre acute traumatic spinal cord injury (TSCI) clinical trial that aims to (1) characterize the changes in intrathecal pressure, to enhance the practice guidelines on managing blood pressure in acute SCI, and (2) validate a series of special proteins called biomarkers, to independently confirm/validate the ability of this series of biomarkers to predict injury severity and neurologic outcome.

**OVERVIEW**

A catheter will be inserted into the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) around the spinal cord (the “intrathecal space”) of human patients to measure intrathecal pressure. Providing the injured cord with enough blood and oxygen (by keeping the blood pressure high) is one of the only treatments that clinicians can currently offer patients with acute TSCI, for whom early neuroprotective treatments might preserve some neural tissue at the site of injury and thus lessen the extent of paralysis.

Existing methods of determining neurological impairment often rely on a clinical exam, which often cannot be assessed due to various reasons (patient is unconscious or is suffering from brain injury). CAMPER includes the collection and analysis of CSF samples at regular intervals following the initial TSCI. Previous studies through RHI, have shown that when using these biomarkers alone, researchers were able to correctly classify the severity of paralysis and predict how much neurologic recovery would occur in SCI patients. Twelve months of clinical assessment and follow up will be collected on all patients enrolled in CAMPER.

**IMPACT**

The CAMPER study will help establish best practice guidelines for managing the spinal cord perfusion pressure, which could minimize secondary damage as the result of acute injury, and therefore improve recovery.

CAMPER also aims to cross-validate the Principal Investigator’s biochemical model for classifying the initial severity of paralysis and predicting the extent of neurological recovery.

**TIMELINE**

- Enrollment started January 2012
- Recruiting 100 SCI patients across Canada
- 12 month study participation & clinical outcome follow-up

**PROJECT TEAM**

**Principal Investigator**
Brian Kwon, MD, PhD, FRCSC, University of British Columbia

**Study Sites**
Halifax, London, Hamilton, Montreal, Vancouver, San Francisco

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**Learn More**
www.rickhanseninstitute.org

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The Rick Hansen Institute is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization with the goal of creating a world without paralysis after spinal cord injury. It works towards this goal by accelerating research and translating clinical findings into practical solutions to develop new treatments, improve health care outcomes, reduce long-term costs and improve the quality of life for those living with spinal cord injury. www.rickhanseninstitute.org